

REMARKS

Claims 3-11 and 14-25 remain in this application, with Claims 1-2 and 12-13 cancelled and Claims 3-9, 11, 14-17 and 19-20 amended. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and review of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 3-6, 14-18 and 21-25. Per the Examiner's suggestion, the Applicant has redrafted Claims 3-6 and 14-17 to independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3-6, 14-18 and 21-25 are now considered allowable.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 7-13 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mclean (U.S. Pat. No. 6,486,769) in view of Flammer, III et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,471,469). These rejections, however, are moot in light of the cancellation of Claims 1-2 and 12-13 and the amendments of Claims 7-9, 11 and 19-20 to depend from claims that are now considered allowable. For example, Claim 7, which originally depended from Claim 1, has now been amended to depend from Claim 5. By way of another example, Claim 19, which originally depended from Claim 12, has now been amended to depend from Claim 16. Therefore, the rejections of Claims 7-11 and 19-20, which now depend from claims that are considered allowable, should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 3-11 and 14-25 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and objections is respectfully requested, and a timely Notice of Allowability is solicited. To the extent it would be helpful to placing this application in condition for allowance, the Applicant encourages the Examiner to contact the undersigned counsel and conduct a telephonic interview.

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To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions the Commissioner for a one-month extension of time, extending to September 19, 2005 (the first business day following September 18, 2005), the period for response to the Office Action dated May 18, 2005. Our check in the amount of \$1,320 is enclosed for the later presentation of six independent claim(s) in excess of three (\$1,200) and for a one-month extension of time (\$120). The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0639.

Respectfully submitted,



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